

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 24924 261128Z

11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 ORM-02 /082 W

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P 261047Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4847

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 24924

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, CB, TH

SUBJECT: THAILAND DECIDES TO EXPEL IN TAM

SUMMARY: THE RTG INFORMED THE EMBASSY NOVEMBER 26 THAT IT IS
EXPELLING FORMER CAMBODIAN PRIME MINISTER IN TAM. END SUMMARY.

1. A CAPTAIN PHUMRONGSAK OF THAI CID TELEPHONED AND THEN
VISITED EMBASSY REFUGEE OFFICE NOVEMBER 26 TO ADVISE THAT HE
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE HAS DECIDED TO EXPEL FORMER GKR PRIME
MINISTER IN TAM BECAUSE HIS PRESENCE CAUSES EMBARRASSMENT BE-
TWEEN THAILAND AND CAMBODIA. PHUMRONGSAK SAID THAT IF IN
TAM IS NOT OUT OF THAILAND IN SEVEN DAYS, HE WILL BE RETURNED
TO CAMBODIA, ALTHOUGH ADMITTING PRIVATELY THAT THAILAND WOULD
NEVER TAKE THE LATTER COURSE OF ACTION. ASKED WHY CID WAS
INVOLVED RATHER THAN THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR, PHUMRONGSAK
REPLIED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE HAD TURNED TO THE CID
WHEN IT WANTED LAO RIGHTISTS EXPELLED EARLIER, AND THE PATTERN
SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SET. (EMBASSY ASSUMES PHUMRONGSAK WAS
INFORMING US OFFICIALLY. AP IS NOW CARRYING STORY.)

2. COMMENT: WE HAD WONDERED WHEN THE AXE WAS GOING TO FALL
ON IN TAM AS THE VISIBLE SYMBOL TF AT LEAST PART OF THE
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 24924 261128Z

OLD CAMBODIA. A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE IN THE BANGKOK POST

ON NOVEMBER 19 REPORTED THAT IN TAM'S FOLLOWERS HAD KILLED AT LEAST 17 KC IN A UNIT ON ITS WAY TO PURCHASE RICE IN TA PHRAYA DISTRICT OF PRACHIN BURI PROVINCE THE WEEK BEFORE. THIS CAUSED OBSERVERS AT THE TIME TO WONDER IF IN TAM WAS NOT BEING SET UP FOR SOME TROUBLE, SINCE THIS WAS THE KIND OF PUBLICITY--SAID TO BE BASED ON A CONFIDENTIAL POLICE REPORT--HE WOULD CERTAINLY NOT SEEK FOR HIMSELF.

3. CURIOUSLY, IN TAM HAS BEEN AWAY FROM HIS GOVERNMENT-ASSIGNED HOUSE IN ARANYAPRAHET FOR THE PAST TWO WEEKS, WITH ONE DIPLOMAT WHO KNEW THE FAMILY BEING TOLD THAT IN TAM WAS SEVERAL KILOMETERS INSIDE THE CAMBODIAN BORDER IN A NOUN-TAIN AREA SOUTH OF HIGHWAY IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION FROM WHICH THE ALLEGED ATTACK BY HIS FOLLOWERS WOULD HAVE OCCURRED. CAMBODIANS WE KNOW BELIEVED TO BE INVOLVED IN RESISTANCE HAVE GENERALLY DISMISSED IN TAM'S FORCES AS BEING OF LITTLE CONSEQUENCE IN ACTIVITY AGAINST THE KC.

4. SWISS EMBOFF IN RECENT MEETING WITH BORDER PATROL POLICE AND OTHER AUTHORITIES IN THE ARANYAPRATHET AREA CAME AWAY CONVINCED THAT THEY WANTED IN TAM TO REMAIN THERE FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE RTG CONSIDERS ITS RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIA OF OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE, HOWEVER, AND ANY IMPEDIMENT TO GOOD RELATIONS MUST BE ELIMINATED. (THIS OCCURS AT THE SAME TIME AS INCREASING PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF THAI COMMUNIST ACTIVITY ALONG THE BORDER WITH CAMBODIA, WITH SOME THAI COMMUNIST BASES LOCATED WITHIN THAT COUNTRY.)

5. WE PRESUME IN TAM WILL WISH TO GO TO THE U.S. AS HE HAD EARLIER INDICATED. (PHUMRONGSAK SAID THE FRENCH HAVE INDICATED THEY DO NOT WANT IN TAM.) REFUGEE ASPECTS OF THIS CASE BING ADDRESSED SEPTTEL.
WHITEHOUSE

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